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STATE OF MONTANA

BULLETIN

OF THE

Department of Public Health

Vol. 4 September 15, 1911 No. 6

MONTANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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- EMIL STARZ, Ph. D., Bacteriologist.

HELENA, MONTANA

Published Monthly at Helena, by the State Board of Health.

"The science of disease prevention, if properly applied, can add fifteen years to the present average length of human life."—Prof. Irving Fisher, Yale.

This Bulletin will be mailed monthly to any person in Montana upon request mailed to the Secretary of the State Board of Health at Helena.



“Sanitary Education is More Important than Sanitary Legislation.”

CONTEST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The State Board of Health is offering prizes for essays by school children on three subjects to be mentioned hereafter. These prizes are money subscribed by individual members of the State Board of Health and three public spirited citizens. They are as follows:

First: For the best essay on tuberculosis or consumption, how it is spread and how it may be prevented. First prize, twenty dollars; second prize, thirteen dollars.

Second: For the best essay on “The Evils of the House Fly, and How the House Fly can be Eradicated.” First prize twenty dollars, second prize, thirteen dollars.

Third: For the best description of an unsanitary back yard located in the district in which the child writing the essay lives, and the evils of such a back yard. Please note that the evils of the back yard should be treated not only from the standpoint of the effect on individuals owning and conducting the yard, but from the standpoint of the effect of such a yard on the community at large. First prize, twenty dollars; second prize, ten dollars.

Conditions of this contest are as follows:

All children in or below the eighth grade are entitled to contest for these prizes. Any child may contest for one or more prizes. Essays must not exceed two thousand words. Each essay must be written separately. All essays must be sent in by a teacher, the teacher endorsing on the back of the essay the grade of the child submitting the essay. All essays must be in the hands of the Secretary of the State Board of Health on or before the last day of November, 1911. Essays received after the last day of November will not be entered in competition. This date is fixed in order that the prize winners may have their prizes on or before Christmas day.

After the essays have been graded by a committee and the prizes awarded, the meritorious essays, whether prize winners or not, will be carefully edited and will be submitted to the newspapers of the localities from which they come and these papers requested to publish the same.

There should be a large number of competitors for these prizes and the results of the essays submitted will go a long ways to show to how great an extent the laws of this State, which require that ways and means by which communicable diseases are spread and may be prevented be taught in the schools in the State, are being complied with.

A notice that these prizes will be offered was published some

time ago in the papers and some of the children have already sent in essays. These have been returned to the children sending them in, with the suggestion that they consult with their teachers before sending in their final copy. I do not think the teachers in the district from which these essays have come would be very proud of the result shown.

We desire to give all an equal chance in this competition.

Did you know that in the Registration District of the United States, representing about fifty per cent of the population of the United States, in three years measles killed 14,000 people, scarlet fever killed 13,313 people, whooping cough killed 16,149, while smallpox killed only 261 people? These figures are the result of data compiled under the law requiring a careful recording of every death that occurs in the registration area and are undisputable.

ARE YOU TEACHING THE CHILDREN IN YOUR SCHOOL THESE FACTS?

Children are handicapped in their school work. Do you realize that a large per cent of the children under your care are unable to keep up with their school work because of physical deformities, which are not suspected by the parents of these children? An examination of 275,641 school children in the city of New York shows that 58,494 had defective vision, that 75,431 had enlarged tonsils, 36,431 had adenoids. These conditions retarded the children in their school work and every one of them could be corrected. The trouble was the parents did not suspect that the condition existed and the children were working under a great disadvantage.

This condition results in the crowding of the lower grades in our schools, to say nothing of the fact that the child is unable to secure the education to which he is entitled and would secure if this condition were brought to the attention of the parents and corrected.

Teachers can detect many of these defects, at least the more marked ones, but the evil will never be completely overcome until we have thorough physical examinations by competent physicians of all school children.

Chapter 27, Session Laws 1909, provides as follows:

Section 1.—That there shall be taught in every year in every public school in Montana the principle modes by which each of the dangerous communicable diseases are spread, and the methods for the restriction and prevention of each such disease as smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, tuberculosis, chicken pox and such other diseases as may be named, and attention called to same by the Board of Health of this State.

Section 2.—That said Board shall annually send to public school superintendents and teachers throughout the State printed data and statements which will enable them to comply with this Act.

Section 3.—That school boards are hereby required to direct superintendents and teachers to give oral and black board instruction using the data and statements supplied by the State Board of Health.

Section 4.—The neglect or refusal on the part of any superintendent or teacher to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be considered a sufficient cause for dismissal from the school by the School Board.

Section 5.—That the member of any school board who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to comply with any provision of this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to punishment by fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars.

Section 6.—That this Act shall apply to all public schools in this State including schools in cities or villages whether incorporated under special charter or under the general law.

Approved, February 25, 1909.

The State Board of Health has complied with the requirements of this law in that they have had compiled a text book covering these subjects. This book has been adopted as a text book in the State of Montana by the Text Book Commission.

Are you teachers complying with your part of this law?

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Under the provisions of Part 3, Title 7, Chapter 1, Article 1, Revised Codes of Montana, 1907, the State Board of Health is required to make and promulgate sanitary regulations relative to school buildings and these regulations are as follows:

Regulation 22.—Certificate of Health Required After Exposure to Infection.—No person residing in any house under quarantine on account of smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or measles, shall be permitted to enter school—public, private, parochial or church—until a period of two weeks has expired after the house has been released from quarantine, and any person residing in any such house shall, on entering any school, present to the teacher or superintendent of such school, a certificate, signed by the health officer, stating the date on which such house was released from quarantine.

Teachers Must Enforce This Regulation—Teachers must see to it that this rule is not violated and must report to the health officer any attempt to violate this regulation.

Regulation 23.—Teachers Must Send Suspicious Cases Home.—Whenever any teacher has reason to suspect that any child

under his or her supervision is suffering from or has been exposed to any contagious or infectious disease, he shall immediately send the child home and shall not permit such child to again enter the school without presenting a certificate from a legally qualified physician and surgeon stating that such child is not infected with or suffering from any contagious or infectious disease.

Regulation 24.—Infected School House Must Be Closed.—Whenever any person afflicted with smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or measles shall enter or be found in any school-house—public, private, parochial or church—such school house shall be deemed to be infected and the school must be closed until the house has been thoroughly disinfected under the supervision of the health officer and in the manner prescribed by these regulations for a room infected with such disease.

Regulation 25.—Health Officer Must Inspect School Buildings.—Each local and county health officer must inspect all school houses within his district at least once during each school term, and at such other times as he may deem it necessary or when he may be directed so to do by the state health officer, and if any school house is found to be in such unsanitary condition as to endanger the health or lives of those who attend school therein such school shall be ordered closed until such unsanitary condition has been removed.

Regulation 26.—Sanitary Requirements for School Houses.—All school houses hereafter constructed in towns or cities of one thousand or more inhabitants in the State must conform to the following requirements, and it is earnestly recommended that all school houses conform to these requirements:

Heating—The heating plant must be of such character that the temperature of the room or rooms can easily be kept at 70 degrees during the most severe weather.

Lighting—The windows must come to within one foot of the ceiling and the area of glass in the windows must not be less than one sixth of the floor area. All windows must be on one side and the rear of the room. No blackboards shall be placed between windows.

Ventilation.—The number of pupils seated in a room must be regulated so that each child shall have not less than 250 cubic feet of air space. The ventilating system must be such that each child will be supplied with not less than 1,250 cubic feet of fresh air per hour. When the amount of air space provided for each child does not exceed 250 cubic feet, the air in the room must be changed not less than five times per hour.

In buildings of more than four rooms some form of forced ventilation must be provided.

Water Supply.—The water supply must be pure and free from contamination. Where running water is supplied sanitary

drinking fountains must be provided.

Water Closets.—Water closets must be fitted with sanitary plumbing, all exposed; the room must be well lighted and provided with ventilators distinct with those connected with the school or corridors.

Privies.—All privies must be provided with water tight boxes or deep tanks dug in soil approved by the health officer, and must be located not less than 100 feet from any well or cistern, and so located that the surface drainage or seepage therefrom will not reach any well or cistern. The janitor must be required to cover the contents of the box or pit with dry earth or lime once each day during the school term, and the box or pit must be emptied and the contents removed to a safe place and buried whenever it shall become two thirds full.

The law requires that health officers be supplied with copies of these regulations. In addition to this they have been published in the newspapers of the State. Does the school building in which you are teaching comply with these regulations? If not bring them to the attention of your School Board, or ask your county or city health officer to inspect your building and report conditions to the State Board of Health.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1911.

SMALLPOX—Cases of smallpox were reported as follows: Cascade (Exclusive of Great Falls), 2; Chouteau, 3; Lincoln, 1; Billings, 1; total 7; total last month, 14; total, Aug., 1910, 8.

DIPHTHERIA—Cases of Diphtheria were reported as follows: Broadwater, 1; Cascade (Exclusive of Great Falls), 2; Great Falls, 1; Anaconda, 2; Sanders, 1; Butte, 2; Billings, 1; total, 10; total last month, 18; total Aug., 1910, 18.

SCARLET FEVER—Cases of Scarlet Fever were reported as follows: Carbon, 1; Helena, 4; Missoula City, 1; Powell, 2; Ravalli, 1; Sanders, 2; Butte, 1; Billings, 2; total, 14; total last month, 17; total, Aug., 1910, 45.

TYPHOID FEVER—Cases of Typhoid Fever were reported as follows: Carbon, 2; Great Falls, 2; Custer, 9; Dawson, 4; Fergus, 1; Flathead (Exclusive of Kalispell), 4; Kalispell, 2; Bozeman, 2; Lewis and Clark (Exclusive of Helena), 3; Helena, 1; Lincoln, 1; Missoula City, 5; Livingston, 1; Ravalli, 1; Rosebud, 2; Sanders, 1; Sweet Grass, 1; Teton, 4; Valley, 2; Yellowstone, (Exclusive of Billings), 2; Billings, 6; total, 56; total last month, 32; total, Aug., 1910, 14.

MEASLES—Cases of Measles were reported as follows: Carbon, 2; Custer, 1; Fergus, 2; Musselshell, 2; Sanders, 1; Teton, 1; Yellowstone (Exclusive of Billings), 2; Billings, 1; total, 12; total last month 29.

**DEATHS (EXCLUSIVE OF STILLBIRTHS) REPORTED TO THE STATE
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1911. AR-
RANGED ACCORDING TO COUNTIES AND CITIES.**

	Totals	All Other Causes	Alcoholism	Suicide	Violence	Acute Intestinal Diseases	Malignant Tumors	Organic Heart Disease	Nephritis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Small Pox	Spotted Fever
Beaverhead	3	3			1			1	1									
Broadwater	2	2																
Carbon	9	5	1						1						1			
Cascade (Excl. of)	7	5							1						1			
Great Falls	16	11	1	1	1	3			1	4								
Chouteau	9	3	1	1		1									2			
Custer	16	6	1	1		3			1						2			
Dawson	8	3			1	1												
Deer Lodge (Excl. of)	6	5																
Anaconda	13	3	1		1	1									1	1		
Fergus	10	7				1			1									
Flathead (Excl. of)	4	2		2														
Kalispell	2	1						1										
Gallatin (Excl. of)	8	2		3					1						1			
Bozeman	3	2				1												
Granite	1	1																
Jefferson	6	1			3			1							1			
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)	9	2							1	3			1					
Helena	14	2		2	2	5		2	2									
Lincoln	4	1			1			2										
Madison	5	3											1					
Meagher	1	1																
Missoula (Excl. of)	5	2				1												
Missoula City	12	2		2		1		3	1	1					1			
Musselshell	2																	
Park (Excl. of)	3	1			2													
Livingston	4	1				2		1										
Powell	4	3	1															
Ravalli	9	1				1		2								4		
Rosebud	2				1													
Sanders	1	1																
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	29	6				9		3	2	4					3			
Butte	52	10	2	8	2	9	3	8	5	8					6			
Sweet Grass	2														1			
Teton	8	2				2			1						2			
Valley	8	2				3			1				1					
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	14	6	1		3	2		1	1									
Billings	11	5				2		2	1				1					
Totals	322	99	7	48	49	9	26	22	18	2	8	2	8	2	26			

Population, 375,000.

Monthly death rate per 1,000—8.50.

Annual death rate per 1,000—10.20.

**BIRTHS REPORTED TO THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
MONTH OF AUGUST, 1911, AND COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND
DEATH RECORD IN THE STATE.**

	Males	Females	Totals	Deaths	Excess of births	Excess of deaths
Beaverhead	3	4	7	3	4	...
Broadwater	4	2	6	2	4	...
Carbon	16	10	26	7	19	...
Cascade (Excl. of)	14	14	28	9	19	...
Great Falls	16	14	30	16	14	...
Chouteau	13	8	21	9	12	...
Custer	19	12	31	16	15	...
Dawson	12	11	23	8	15	...
Deer Lodge (Excl. of)	1	1	6	...	5
Anaconda	7	5	12	13	...	1
Fergus	18	19	37	10	27	...
Flathead (Excl. of)	10	12	23	4	9	...
Kalispell	10	6	16	2	14	...
Gallatin (Excl. of)	7	5	12	8	4	...
Bozeman	7	4	11	3	8	...
Granite	3	2	5	1	4	...
Jefferson	2	4	6	6
Lewis and Clark (Excl. of)	7	4	11	9	2	...
Helena	13	14	27	14	13	...
Lincoln	2	3	5	4	1	...
Madison	3	6	9	5	4	...
Meagher	8	4	12	1	11	...
Missoula (Excl. of)	4	11	15	5	10	...
Missoula City	17	14	31	12	19	...
Musselshell	10	8	18	2	16	...
Park (Excl. of)	4	5	9	3	6	...
Livingston	6	2	8	4	4	...
Powell	6	13	19	4	15	...
Ravalli	7	11	18	9	9	...
Rosebud	3	4	7	2	5	...
Sanders	2	2	4	1	3	...
Silver Bow (Excl. of)	23	12	35	29	6	...
Butte	23	24	47	52	...	5
Sweet Grass	2	1	3	2	1	...
Teton	12	8	20	8	12	...
Valley	13	12	25	8	17	...
Yellowstone (Excl. of)	6	9	15	14	1	...
Billings	8	9	17	11	6	...
Totals	340	310	650	322	328	...